

Saugus Board of Selectmen

September 23, 2019

Minutes

The Saugus Board of Selectmen met on September 23, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall 1st Floor Conference Room, 298 Central Street. Present were: Selectmen Scott Brazis, Jeffrey Cicolini, Jennifer D'Eon, Mark Mitchell and the Chairman Debra Panetta.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to this special meeting of the Board of Selectmen. The focus of the meeting was to discuss the construction article for SCTV.

The Chair discussed Article 12, which passed at Town Meeting in the Spring, where the Town accepted the provisions of Chapter 44, section 53F ½ of the Massachusetts General Law establishing the Saugus PEG Access Channel Saugus Community Television as an enterprise fund. This means that all funding needed by SCTV needs a recommendation from FinCom, and a vote is needed by Town Meeting. This was a state-wide change since some cities and towns have the cable station receiving money directly from Comcast, where in Saugus, funds received from Comcast get deposited into a separate account specifically for the Cable Station – and a vote is needed by the Selectmen to distribute those funds to SCTV. Saugus already had a process in place where the SCTV Board would come to the Board of Selectmen for approving a transfer to SCTV.

Legally, there is no need of a vote of approval by the BOS at this time since Selectmen approval will come later when we see the full proposal. The Board can ask questions and approve the funding of operations, equipment and capital improvement under the agreement of this non-profit. However, the FinCom voted to table Article 2, the Construction article, and the FinCom Chair asked if the BOS could meet to vote on an approval prior to the FinCom voting. This is why we are meeting tonight. FinCom is meeting at 6:30 PM. The Chair suggested the following motion after speaking with Town Counsel:

To approve the sum of \$550,000.00 for the purpose of construction and/or renovation of a PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus and costs related thereto subject to later and additional votes and approval of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit as to the project scope and details, and distribution and schedule of funds to be transferred from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund.

Selectman Cicolini said moving forward they should look at amending the contract with Comcast and understands they want the Selectmen as “gatekeepers” but now it goes before Town Meeting & FinCom and seems redundant. Selectmen Cicolini believes the next Board of Selectmen should consider modifying this agreement. The Chair agreed and said the non-binding question on the ballot (2013 ballot question) passed overwhelmingly regarding Selectmen’s involvement with SCTV. Al DiNardo, SCTV President was present and explained SCTV will oversee the project. This was a discussion on reviewing the lease. Al DiNardo stressed that this BOS never got involved in the operations of SCTV.

Selectman D'Eon moved to approve the sum of \$550,000.00 for the purpose of construction and/or renovation of a PEG Access studio/facility in Saugus and costs related thereto subject to later and additional votes and approval of the Board of Selectmen as they see fit as to the project scope and details, and distribution and schedule of funds to be transferred from the PEG Access Enterprise Fund. Chair seconds 4-1 with Selectman Brazis voting in opposition.

Selectman Brazis moved to adjourn. Chair seconds 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM.